

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/49417 to BLINN. In view of the following remarks, applicant respectfully traverses.

Each of the independent claims now recites a far and close region being more affected by filtering than a central region. For example, Figs. 11A and 11B show an alpha value of 0 assigned to a central region, whereas a value of 1 is assigned to regions 1 and 5. As a result, the central region could be clearer than the close and far regions, in an example where the the filtering is blur processing.

In contrast, BLINN cumulates fog as layers become farther away from the viewpoint. Thus, BLINN could not display a farther layer clearer than a closer layer. BLINN does not teach or suggest the claimed features. Consequently, it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1 - 19.

The amendments to the claims are supported, *inter alia*, by page 10 of the specification and Figures 1 and 11. Thus, the amendments do not add any prohibited new matter.

The dependent claims are also believed to recite further patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

The above amendments have been presented merely for the purpose of clarification, and not to overcome the applied prior art. Accordingly, no estoppel is deemed to result from any of the present amendments.

The written description has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
Hisahiko TAKEUCHI

Walter E. Lydell Reg. No. 41,568
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191